



EXHIBIT 8  
DATE 2/17/09  
HB 362

Van Kirke Nelson, MD

February 16, 2009

Testimony of Van Kirke Nelson, M. D.  
H. B. 362

Chairman Stoker / Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Van Kirke Nelson  
680 S. Foy's Lake Rd.  
Kalispell, Montana, 59901

I am a retired physician having practiced Obstetrics and Gynecology in Kalispell nearly 45 years and having had the privilege of serving as President of the Montana Medical Association, President of the Montana Board of Medical Examiners and M.M.A. Delegate to the A.M.A.

I write in support of H.B. 362 introduced by Representative T. Henry and others.

Preparedness is something not to be forgotten. H. B. 362 addresses that.

Disasters strike and people respond, and in some instances having to make instant judgments for salvage of life and property, sometimes with an untoward, unintended result that might not have been the same in a normal occurring incident. In my own lifetime as a physician, during the polio epidemic of the 1950's – who gets the respirators (iron lungs) when there are more sick than available respirators and, in your own lifetime, Katrina and who gets evacuated?

Your support of H. B. 362 will assure the licensed physicians and para-medical personnel of the state of Montana that they don't have to think of liability in making a decision when disasters change the playing field of everyday services.

Thank you,

Van Kirke Nelson